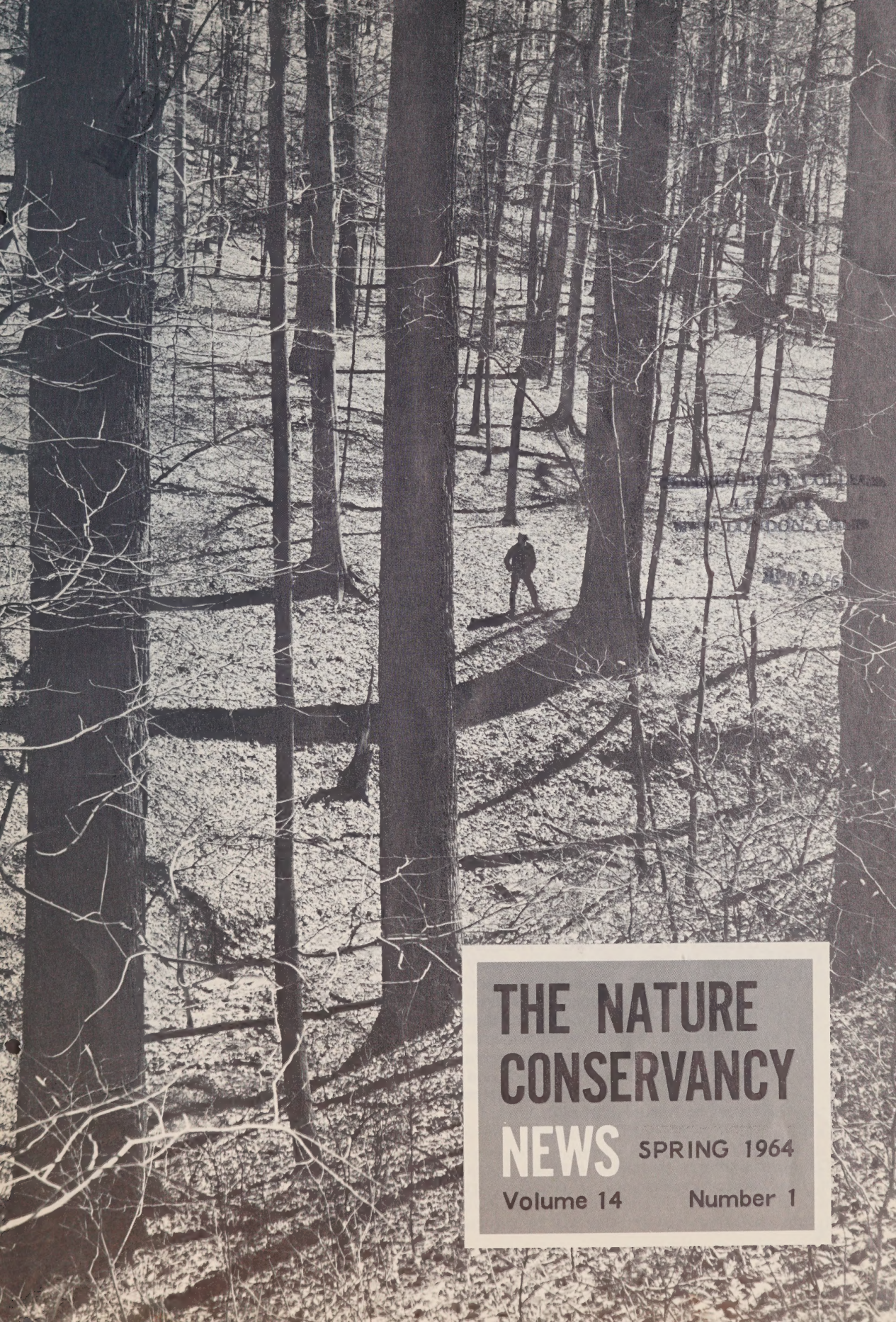

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

SPRING 1964

Volume 14 Number 1

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

A Publication of The Nature Conservancy

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W. Harley Webster, Editor

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DYSART WOODS, OHIO: The cover photograph for this issue was taken and donated to The Nature Conservancy by Mr. Frazier Smith, 412 Oglebay Drive, Wheeling, West Virginia. We are indebted to Mr. Smith for this dramatic example of the photographer's art. This virgin stand of majestic white oaks is a major and significant find of the Conservancy, and is the only such tract of timber to be discovered between New Jersey and Indiana and has immeasurable value as a "living museum". A 135-foot tall tulip poplar is within Dysart Woods, as well as beech and sugar maples, and several small streams flow through the forest. A final payment of $20,000.00 on this magnificent forest will be due June 30, 1964.

The Editor solicits the gift of articles, notes, photographs, and sketches on the various aspects of The Nature Conservancy. If possible, articles should be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Photographs or negatives should have necessary data attached. All photographs, negatives and articles will be returned if desired.

NATURAL HISTORY LANDMARKS REGISTRY STARTED:
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCES FIRST ELIGIBLE SITES

The first seven sites found eligible for a new National Registry of Natural History Landmarks, to illustrate important segments of America's natural heritage, were announced on March 17th by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. Interior's National Park Service is compiling the Registry and the first group of eligible sites named for registration include:

—Bergen Swamp, about 25 miles west of Rochester, New York.
—Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, 25 miles southwest of Ft. Myers, Florida.
—Elder Creek, four miles north of Branscomb, California.
—Fontenelle Forest, one mile south of Omaha, Nebraska.
—Mianus River Gorge, in lower Westchester County, New York.
—Rancho La Brea-Hancock Park, in Los Angeles, California, and
—Wissahickon Valley, a part of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Registry, complementing the highly successful Registry of National Historic Landmarks launched in 1960, is designed to recognize and encourage the preservation and protection of select natural sites irrespective of administration or ownership -- State and local agencies, conservation groups, science foundations, or private parties. Participation is entirely voluntary.

"The establishment of the National Registry of Natural History Landmarks," Udall said, "makes it possible for the Federal Government to give moral support and recognition to organizations that are illustrating and commemorating an integral part of our American heritage. It also will provide an opportunity to give these important areas a degree of status which might not otherwise be possible.

"It would, in any event, be undesirable and probably impossible for the Federal Government to acquire and administer the numerous areas of natural history importance which deserve protection."

Federal involvement will be limited to the issuance of certificates, periodic inspections, and arranging for the site owner to acquire a suitable marker.

The Registry will strengthen public awareness in preserving the Nation's cultural resources, and will be a most important means of providing citizens and students a list of the more significant landmarks recognized by leading authorities throughout the country.

Secretary Udall indicated that the Park Service has received close cooperation from the Interior Department's Geological Survey and from conservation organizations, such as the American Geological Institute and **The Nature Conservancy** in this program.

"These fine organizations" he said, "have contributed significantly to the formulation of the program and have helped outline the criteria and guidelines to which these and proposal landmarks must qualify for registration."

Listed as criteria and guidelines used for evaluating and recommending proposed sites were:

—natural quality and character.
—degree of dissimilarity to other sites.
—importance to education and science.
—reasonable invulnerability to deterioration and destruction.
—practicable size.
—availability and accessibility, and
—sympathetic and responsible ownership.

Studies of significant natural history sites are submitted to the Secretary's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments for review and evaluation. The Board then makes recommendations to the Secretary as to which sites are eligible for the Registry.

Following are brief descriptions of the initial seven sites made eligible from the first study.

Bergen Swamp

Maintained and preserved by the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society, Inc., this proposed landmark of about 2000 acres is a remnant of the Pleistocene Period of the Cenozoic Era when western New York was

covered by large glaciers that blocked the drainage of water from the area and produced "temporary" glacial lakes. One such lake, subsequently called Lake Tonawanda by geologists, gradually disappeared about 50,000 years ago and left only a trace of its existence in the area. Thus Bergen Swamp is due in part to older rock formations that lie beneath the area, and in part to later glaciation.

The rocks beneath the Swamp are stratified layers of sedimentary rock, that is, sediments which were deposited in an ancient sea, and since that time have become cemented and compacted.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Maintained and preserved by the National Audubon Society, the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is located on a 6080 acre tract, which contains the largest remaining stand of virgin bald cypress on the North American Continent. Also preserved here are forms ranging from the so-called pond cypress to the common bald cypress, as well as large acres of wet prairie, pineland with its groundcover of saw palmetto, open ponds with growths of duckweed and water lettuce, and marsh lands occupied principally by sawgrass. Forty species of birds are permanent residents at the Sanctuary, and there is a rich wildlife population.

Elder Creek

The major portion of the area is the Elder Creek drainage basin in the Northern California Coast Range, and also includes a portion of the South Fork of the Eel River and minor adjacent lands to the west. The Elder Creek area contains imposing stands of Douglas fir preserved in a natural state, of large size and great age. In addition, the Douglas fir is mingled in places with the impressive coast redwood.

Chaparral associations also occur upon many of the ridge crests bounding the creek valley.

The 3,600 acre tract is owned by **The Nature Conservancy.**

Fontenelle Forest

Probably the largest forest stand in this section of the Missouri River area, the 1,500 acre Fontenelle Forest is held in ownership by the Fontenelle Forest Association of Omaha, Nebraska. This proposed landmark is principally a virgin forest on high bluffs and river flood plains immediately west and south of the Missouri River. It contains large trees such as the Burr Oak, northern red oak, bitternut hickory, and shagbark hickory. In all, there are 38 species of native trees recorded in the forest.

In addition to the forested area, there are marsh, swamp, small lakes, and about 20 acres of true prairie which also have unusual scientific significance.

Mianus River Gorge

The 207 acre tract includes a fine climax forest of hemlocks, some of which are estimated to be 300 years old, and the most rugged and spectacular portion of Mianus Gorge. Included in the primeval forest are 500 species of trees, shrubs,

and smaller plants, and a varied fauna, indigenous to the northeastern United States.

The area is considered unsurpassed in the East as one in which natural conditions have remained relatively undisturbed from the time of discovery and early exploration.

Located within 50 miles of midtown New York and readily accessible to the Merritt Parkway, the proposed landmark is owned by the Mianus River Gorge Conservation Committee of **The Nature Conservancy.**

Rancho La Brea-Hancock Park

This metropolitan park contains several pits of natural asphalt in which Pleistocene animals became entrapped in their quest for fresh water. The pits are world-famous as the source of the largest and most diverse collection of Pleistocene fossils ever found and studied. Among the many fossils preserved are the groundsloth, saber-toothed tiger, and mammoth. These pits were discovered during the course of early Spanish explorations in this section of California.

The Rancho La Brea-Hancock Park is owned by Los Angeles County, under the direction of the Los Angeles County Museum.

Wissahickon Valley

Located within the city limits of Philadelphia, the proposed landmark is about six and one-half miles long and embraces about 1,250 acres or approximately one-third of the famed Fairmount Park.

Owned and managed by the Fairmount Park Commission, Wissahickon Valley is virtually untouched by the inroads of modern civilization. Solitude and primeval grandeur prevail to a remarkable degree, and the steep-sided valley is heavily wooded with large hemlocks, particularly in the southern part, towering above the native white, red, jack, and shortleaf pines.

Wissahickon Valley is significant as a symbol of what can be done toward the perpetuation of a truly natural area within a vast urban complex.

Studies of other proposed landmarks are currently underway, and announcement of their eligibility will be made following completion of review and evaluation.

THE WOODBOURNE FOREST AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Woodbourne Forest Management Committee takes great pleasure in announcing that we now have Mr. and Mrs. R. Gardner Griffin living at Woodbourne as Resident Naturalists. For some years it was a hope of the Cope family, donors of the forest, and the Management Committee to find a suitable person for this responsibility; but having an exceedingly slim budget to work with, and setting exceedingly high standards as to the qualifications we wanted, it was a difficult and time-consuming undertaking. Mr. Griffin was active in organizing the work of The Nature Conservancy in Ohio, and served as vice-chairman of the Ohio Chapter. The Griffins have also actively participated in The Nature Conservancy work in New Jersey. They are members of numerous conservation and natural history groups.

In addition to getting settled, the Griffins have guided a number of visiting groups, have proceeded with posting, making some needed changes in the self-guided nature trail, making a bird census, and dealing with a beaver problem, all in keeping with the responsibilities of resident naturalists. In addition, Mrs. Griffin has been arousing interest in Natural Science with a well-received weekly column in the MONTROSE INDEPENDENT, entitled "Learning the Ways of Nature".

The Griffins report that from April 25 through October 13 a total of 141 visitors registered at the entrance. This included a good contingent of Girl Scouts, Scout leaders and visitors from private camps in the area. We are pleased that Woodbourne is serving these people; for though the forest was given to The Nature Conservancy to preserve its beauty and its wildlife as a marvelous reservoir of scientific interest and inspiration, the gift was not made out of sentiment for "nature", but to serve the spiritual and educational needs of the community and the country. And as man's ruthless and avaricious spirit continues to lay waste vast areas of the world, we believe that sanctuaries such as this one will come to be more and more meaningful and valuable to mankind.

USE OF THE CLEARY RESERVE CALIFORNIA

We would like to encourage the use of the Cleary Reserve this Spring. The reserve is usable for study of all of the natural sciences. Classes from San Francisco State College, Sonoma State College, and California State College have used the area to study ornithology, mammalogy, vertebrate natural history, and ecology, with great success. It would also be suitable for courses in taxonomic botany, herpetology, entomology, and others.

Facilities on the reserve now will accommodate groups overnight. Sleeping bags, air mattresses, and food will have to be provided by visiting groups. There is a good water supply at the buildings, and adequate toilet facilities. There are two kerosene stoves and two wood stoves for cooking in which fuel will be provided. Fuel will not be available for other types of stoves groups may bring. A member of the association will be at the reserve with each class to advise on the use of the facilities.

We would like to remind you that necessary collecting is permitted on the reserve. This can only be done as long as it does not affect populations of organisms collected. It may become necessary to limit collecting in the future, but at the moment we will simply caution against the abuse of the privilege. Nothing should be collected from around the laboratory buildings.

One advantage of an area like the Cleary Reserve is that it permits the establishment of permanent quadrats or transects for class use. The ecology class from San Francisco State College has already set up quadrats for long-term vegetation study. The research committee should be consulted before setting up such facilities.

For information concerning proposed visits, please contact:

William J. Maher
Research Committee
Biological Field
Studies Association
1517 Grove Street
Berkeley, California

DR. LINDSEY URGES BELT'S WOODS BE SAVED

Shortly before the arrival of spring, Dr. Alton A. Lindsey, professor of plant science at Purdue University, arrived in the national offices of The Nature Conservancy to scan the card file of natural area preserves, major source of data for the AAAS report. (See pp. 10 & 11)

We learned he is making a comparative study of eastern sloping virgin woods on a National Science Foundation one-year grant. Currently he and his research associate, a graduate student, John O. Sawyer, Jr., are seeking virgin woods best suited for the study.

Paul Bruce Dowling of The Nature Conservancy told him of several tracts and suggested he see Belt's Woods, a 30-acre virgin stand at the corner of Church Road and Central Avenue on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. The Nature Conservancy is interested in the continued preservation of the area.

Mr. Belt, who died in 1959, left the woods as part of his 624 acre surrounded residence "Oatland" for a home for retired Episcopalian ministers and for other church purposes.

Dr. Lindsey did not commit himself to including Belt's Woods in his study but found several areas of the five percent slope he was seeking. Tulip trees towered approximately 150 feet, predominating with white oaks in the woods interspersed with red maple, black gum, hickory, walnut and dogwood. Spicebush comprised the dominant shrub. Dr. Lindsey seemed convinced of the climax proportions of the growth and of its untouchedness, despite some trees toppled by what was thought to be wind damage. A number of the trees had numbers whitewashed on them which caused apprehension of surveying on the grounds — for what reason, it was undetermined.

A long time member of The Nature Conservancy, Dr. Lindsey, after suggesting a photograph of a denser stand, said "This place really should be in the hands of **The Nature Conservancy** or some educational institution. It would be a wonderful field trip destination."

NATURE CONSERVANCY

By O. D. Diller, Chairman, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Ohio Department of Forestry, Wooster, Ohio. (Reprinted from the Winter Issue of OHIO WOODLANDS).

Among research facilities needed, not only by foresters, but by all research workers in the natural sciences are undisturbed areas that may be used as reference. Such areas serve as natural laboratories to which biologists of today and of the future turn for answers to the question, "What was the natural order? What was the situation before man changed it?"

This is not in contradiction to the desirability of holding a high proportion of Ohio's woodlands in private ownership and managing them for the multiple uses of which they are capable.

With the rapid clearing of vast tracts of land for suburban housing, industrial developments and super highways, serious consideration must be given to the preservation of some of the few remaining virgin timber stands and other natural areas which have not yet fallen victims to the chain saw, bulldozer, cement mixer and ditching machine. A few of these unique areas have been brought under stable ownership of an organization called The Nature Conservancy. This is a non-profit group concerned with the preservation of plant and animal life in natural forests, prairies, swamps and bogs. The chairman of the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is Willard Carmean, a professional research forester with the United States Forest Service.

Examples of tracts which have been brought under the undisturbed natural area classification are Dysart Woods in Belmont County; Mentor Marsh and Kimball Woods in Lake County; the E. Lucy Braun Preserve and Buzzardroost Rock in Adams County and Clifton Gorge in Greene.

The Nature Conservancy consists of some 500 Ohioans interested in the preservation of the few remaining natural areas. The group is constantly seeking areas which should be placed under permanent protection. Anyone knowing of such an area is urged to write Dr. Carmean at the Buckeye Forest Research Center, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

It is hoped that a few such undisturbed tracts illustrating Nature's way—wasteful as it may be in the eyes of some—will remain inviolate for posterity to see and biologists to use for research purposes.

Dysart Woods

APPOINTMENT OF WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Mr. Huey D. Johnson was appointed Western Regional Director in January of this year. Huey comes to us from Charlotte, Michigan, and their loss is our gain. He is a graduate of the Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo, where he majored in biology. In addition, he attended the University of Colorado extension night school, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Idaho extension night school. He is at present finishing up his Master's Thesis for the University of Idaho. Huey has had research experience with the California Department of Fish and Game, as well as with the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game, and has also taught in the Idaho school system. He has committed his life to the cause of conservation and has a great desire to teach the conservation message and bring it to the public. Huey has a keen sense of humor, a wealth of experience gained in world-wide travels, and his genuine interest in Mother Nature are but a few of the factors which make him a pleasure to know. We're happy to have him aboard!

WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

The Western Regional Office of The Nature Conservancy has moved from Berkeley to San Francisco. The new address is 149 California Street and the new phone number is GArfield 1-1759. An advantage in the move is that of a closer proximity to other conservation groups in the region. In addition, the new location will be easier to reach by visitors to the Bay Area.

Mr. Huey D. Johnson, the Western Regional Director, extends a welcome to visitors and hopes they will stop by when in town. Recent Western Regional activities are exhibited in the office, together with an information rack containing the news of The Nature Conservancy and general conservation happenings in the nation.

VALHALLA GLEN, NEW JERSEY

Valhalla Glen, one of the last untouched areas within an hour's drive of New York City, is being purchased through The Nature Conservancy and Montclair State Teachers College, as a joint project, for $40,000. The thirty-acre tract is two-thirds hemlock and one-third mixed oak woods which lead to a small pond. A brook winds through the ravine with the dammed upper end providing a marsh area.

Located near Montville, N.J., at the north end of Lake Valhalla, the property is near serpentine pits which once supplied "Chinese jade'.

The Glen is owned by developers who were ready to develop it, but who have now given us an option for one year to try and find ways of preserving this land. Dr. E. De Alton Partridge, President of Montclair State College, and Marie Kuhnen, a professor there are heading the preservation effort.

Should the Glen be put under duress from heavy traffic it is proposed that it be fenced off, but for the present visitors are welcome.

DAVENPORT SANCTUARY, NEW YORK

Davenport Sanctuary, a project of the Long Island Chapter, is being donated to The Nature Conservancy in two-acre parcels by Mrs. Jane de Tomasi. This land comprises 8.4756 acres of landscaped grounds in the Oyster Bay, New York, section, home of the donor and her husband, Dr. James de Tomasi, and the project was named by the donor for her father.

It is wooded glacial terrain with a kettle hole pond containing thickets and brambles together with second growth woodland, and will be used as a bird sanctuary and scientific study area. It is on one of the highest glacial moraines in Long Island, situated in Oyster Bay on the "v" formed by Northern Boulevard (Route 25A) and Laurel Hollow Road.

Charles Benedict Davenport, for whom the preserve was named, was founder and director of the Biological Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor for 25 years and a founder of the Whaling Museum there. He twice served as president of the American Society of Zoologists before his death in 1944. Mrs. de Tomasi is a trustee of the Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

BYRAM RIVER GORGE, CONNECTICUT

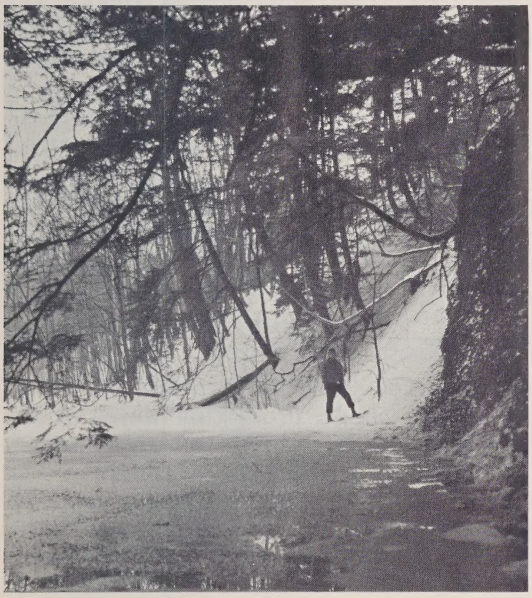
The Byram River can now flow easier through Greenwich, Connecticut, since a 17-acre tract has been preserved by a gift through the efforts of the Byram River Gorge Committee, which is an affiliate of The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut.

Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard F. Gimbel of Greenwich, the almost untouched woodland dominated by hemlocks, some 230 years old and among the rarest in the Eastern U.S., straddles the river which flows through the city for 2-1/2 miles and eventually empties into Long Island Sound.

Sheer rock cliffs, 100 feet or more in places, rise from the river, and beech and sugar maple are interspersed in the near climax forest.

The tract, located between John Street and Sherwood Avenue, is the first in what is hoped to be a series of donations of river bordering land. Mrs. Gerrish Milliken, Jr. and August Klipstein head the committee which accepted the 17 acres and now seek adjacent sites.

LISHA KILL, NEW YORK



About $22,000 has been raised towards the $36,000 needed to purchase the Lisha Kill natural area, now secured by a Nature Conservancy loan to the Lisha Kill Natural Area Committee.

A stream valley containing unspoiled woodland, primarily of mature white pine, hemlock and oak forest, Lisha Kill is located on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York. Before joining the Mohawk River, the stream of the Lisha Kill winds for more than a mile between slopes that rise over 50 feet high in places. Shale outcroppings provide special interest. The feature which particularly distinguishes the area is the combination of stream valley with what is considered the only sizable undisturbed area of mature forest left in the Albany-Schenectady metropolitan area.

Several years ago the area, unlumbered for 60 years, seemed destined for development. Niskayuna and Schenectady, New York citizens, sought to acquire the 100 acres as a preserve. Dr. H. M. Rozendaal, a local physician, heads the committee and Dr. F. S. Ham, a physicist, heads the fund drive.

TUCKAHOE CREEK, VIRGINIA

Plans to preserve nine miles of land along Tuckahoe Creek from Route 250 to the juncture of the center of the tributary with the James River near Richmond, Virginia are being considered.

The Tuckahoe Creek Preserve Committee, affiliated to the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, propose to acquisition all lands below 190 feet elevation along the creek bank.

Virginia Governor Albertis S. Harrison, attending a gathering to launch the project, stated "It has great promise for the state and the Richmond area." The Governor believes that the preservation of Tuckahoe Creek will be a means of creating additional interest in Virginia conservation efforts.

Mr. W. T. Reed, who was elected chairman of the Committee at the organizational meeting held at his residence, credited Mr. James Ball, Jr., Vice-Chairman, with 'the whole idea and dream'. Mr. Ball stated it was far from original, and he called attention to Richmond's westward expansion toward the area and urged open space preservation. About 100 individuals own land in the nine-mile 1/4- to 1/2-mile-wide stretch.

A second gathering to organize a 50-member women's auxiliary was held by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Cheek, Jr., of Richmond. Mr. George Freeman, Jr., Chairman of the Virginia Chapter, and Mr. Bruce

Dowling, Assistant Director of The Nature Conservancy, attended the meeting and answered questions on the national activities of the group.

LATIN AMERICAN DESK

A Latin American Desk has been established at the national headquarters of The Nature Conservancy on a temporary experimental basis, with funds for its support obtained by contributions that would not normally be given for other Conservancy purposes.

Dr. Maria Buchinger, who came to the United States in 1963 on a Guggenheim Fellowship to write a book on Conservation Education for Latin America, is heading this experiment and she states that some countries in Latin America are quite ready for a Nature Conservancy type of operation. She has already done a tremendous amount of research in this field, and we are hopeful that big things will come of this experiment.

Maria, who lived in Argentina for 14 years, and who well knows most of the countries in South America, recently returned from a trip to Ecuador, and other South and Central American countries. As Secretary of the Latin America Committee on National Parks, of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, she organized the first meeting in Guayaquil of the committee, and en route conferred with important conservation minded officials and citizens in Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

INTERIOR ACTS ON AAAS REPORT

The following letter was received from the Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall, on February 26th, 1964, shortly after the 300 copies of the limited edition of the report "Natural Areas as Research Facilities" were distributed.

Dr. F. R. Fosberg, who headed the committee which compiled the report, has recently returned from a month's botanic expedition in East Pakistan.

"I have read with interest the report, 'Natural Areas as Research Facilities', of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The report documents the considerable amount of scientific research which is conducted on unmodified natural areas, and also reveals the small amount of public protection which is afforded to unique and valuable ecosystems.

"In addition to the use of natural areas for research purposes, it is my conviction that the United States has a cultural responsibility to the world and to its own future generations to preserve a representation of the natural ecosystems of this country.

"I have noticed with interest that the United States Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture has had a natural area protection program, which to date has designated some 61 areas. A significant proportion of the nation's public land estate is in the jurisdiction of the land management bureaus of the Department of the Interior.

"At this time, I have asked the Resources Program Staff to establish a Departmental working group which will undertake a firm action program with consistent policies throughout the Department for natural area selection, administration, and long-term protection.

"I am grateful to the American Association for the Advancement of Science for this frank report.

Stewart L. Udall."

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

August 21, 1964
Urbana, Illinois

The Board of Governors has accepted the invitation of the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to hold the annual meeting in Illinois this year.

Present plans call for the annual meeting to be held on Friday, Saturday and part of Sunday, August 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. The University of Illinois, at Urbana, has indicated its willingness to make its facilities available to the Conservancy.

Field trips and museum displays will provide added interest for all nature lovers.

The Chapter is looking forward to this Mid-West meeting, and extends to all the members of The Nature Conservancy and others interested in conservation a warm welcome to attend.

CONSERVE FOR SCIENCE SAYS AAAS

Federal Agency Preserves
Too Recreation Oriented

"Natural Areas as Research Facilities", the limited edition report prepared by a committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, headed by Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg, urges harmonizing land conservation efforts not only with recreation pursuits as in the past, but with research use of natural areas.

Piecemeal efforts at conservation of scientific natural areas should be unified into a comprehensive program, the report said.

Practicing what it urged by compiling lists of those sciences which are using natural areas (not the ones you would most expect); which natural areas are given the most use and why; a list of natural areas and their ownership and books useful in research on natural areas; the report acknowledged that present efforts in retrospect will appear primitive.

Attacking the criticism that natural areas currently in existence are not used, the report sought to provide proof otherwise. It noted, "They are most assuredly used, though certain sciences which would be expected to make greater use of them do not do so."

Natural areas not currently used serve a purpose according to the report. "One of the important uses of natural areas is just to let them alone" thus providing undisturbed areas for future scientists to compare ecological changes of used and non-used areas. Even light use is destructive to areas the report said. Overuse of natural areas to their detriment and the detriment of science was also a concern of the report, which urged regular investigation to determine which areas might be changed ecologically by heavy use.

Few institutions have asked for funds for acquisitions of natural areas the report lamented and suggested possibly institutions are ignorant of the fact that the National Science Foundation regards such areas as research facilities.

The attitude of the report was that one of the measurements of the civilization of a country is its attitude toward preserving samples of its natural environment in an undisturbed condition, just as its attitude toward preservation of its artistic and literary treasures is such a measure.

CONSERVANCY AIDS FOREST SERVICE: ADDS THREE AREAS

The limited budget of the U.S. Forest Service sometimes requires that The Nature Conservancy be on the alert for purchase opportunities for them. Three areas acquired recently by The Nature Conservancy—Adams Lake, California; Current River, Missouri and Thunderstruck Shoals, Kentucky—will be resold to the U.S. Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, furthering the cause of preservation and aiding the budgets of both organizations.

Adams Lake, a two-acre lake surrounded by virgin stands of mature true fir, was named by a Mr. McAdams. In northernmost California, it is in the Salmon Trinity Alps Primitive Area in Shasta Trinity National Forest. The lake was originally purchased as school land in 1889 by Mr. McAdams.

The Current River Tract landward from Dark Bay in the Current River is 40 acres of forested hills forming part of a wilderness area within the Mark Twain National Forest. It is cut by Compton Creek but isn't a prime natural area in the botanical sense. The tract provides access to a Forest Service scenic area and is located approximately 11 miles from Doniphan, Missouri, in Ripley County.

Two parcels totaling about 500 acres were acquired by The Nature Conservancy in the area of Thunderstruck Shoals, Kentucky. The cutover young timber hasn't been lumbered recently. The parcels are within the Cumberland National Forest, Kentucky, and are on the Cumberland River upstream from Cumberland Falls State Park.

CEDARBURG BEECH WOODS, WISCONSIN

A six week drive netted $50,000 to clinch the sale just prior to expiration of the final option on Cedarburg Beech Woods, one of the last good beech woods in the Milwaukee area. The 177 acres are slated to be developed as a natural arboretum of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Adjoining the property is a floating bog with some spruce forest which will be available for use as it is a state scientific site. Originally ten individually owned parcels of land were sought, but only five are included in the option.

The upland hardwood forest consists of maple, basswood and beech, while the wooded swamp includes elm, ash and white cedar. Gravel knolls with several small pits together with an abandoned nursery are to be found there. A dwelling place on one tract will be occupied until May of this year. The Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy is working on the project and anticipates turning the property over to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the near future.

Mrs. Robert Reisinger, a member of the local group's finance committee, stated that the chapter was trying to raise the full amount immediately as borrowing money from national headquarters could prevent other groups obtaining funds for additional lands.

ALEXANDER BERGER MEMORIAL SANCTUARY TO BE DEDICATED THIS SPRING

Alexander Berger Memorial Sanctuary of 941 acres in its natural state meanders along the shore of the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg, Virginia.

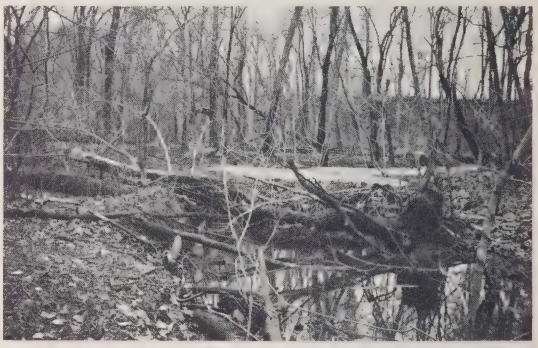
Mrs. Helen Bryan and family gave the land in memory of her father, a graduate of the University of Virginia Law School who returned to Wisconsin to establish himself in milling and western railroads. Enamoured with the Virginia countryside and way of life he returned to purchase "Hayfield" and "Belvedere" estates. Mr. Berger died in 1941 at "Belvedere" where he made his home. "Belvedere Peony Farm," as the remaining acreage once totalling more than 1500 acres is now called, is an early spring attraction in Tidewater, Virginia with its fields of waving, colorful peonies grown for city markets.

Ecological study groups from area universities are expected to use the area.

Ornithologists can observe ducks, great blue heron, woodpeckers and numerous other species. A flock of 200 turkey vultures appeared for one group of visitors. Tracks indicate raccoon, deer, and possibly egrets are in the vicinity. Active beaver colonies are present and their lodges can be seen.

Dogwood and a bank of rhododendron, unusual this far south on the coastal plain which may have survived here since glacial times, blossom. The area contains a large proportion of second growth trees, averaging two feet in diameter breast high, but several five feet in diameter can also be seen. Snow Creek empties into the river just after it forms a slough below an escarpment 30 feet high.

Historians will find remnants of Civil War fortifications and delving into historical records will unearth the fact that the originator of the house at Belvedere, a Col. William Dangerfield, was preceded by Francis Thornton "a gentleman, aged 53" who settled there before the settlement of Fredericksburg.



". . . we must expand the concept of conservation to meet the imperious problems of the new age. We must develop new instruments of foresight and protection and nurture in order to recover the relationship between man and nature and to make sure that the national estate we pass on to our multiplying descendants is green and flourishing.

I hope that all Americans understand the importance of this effort, because it cannot be won until each American makes the preservation of 'the beauty and the bounty of the American earth' his personal commitment."

—JOHN F. KENNEDY

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, created by legislative action last year, held its organizing meeting on January 30th, following appointment of members by Governor Kerner.

The Commission elected Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh of the University of Illinois at Urbana, as its chairman. Elton Fawks of East Moline was elected Vice-Chairman and George B. Fell of Rockford was elected Secretary. Dr. Kendeigh is Professor of Animal Ecology and Chairman of the University's Committee on Natural Areas. Mr. Fawks is President of the Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League of America. Mr. Fell is Director of the Natural Land Institute and Chairman of the Citizens Committee for Nature Conservation.

The Commission will play an important part, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Conservation, in establishing a state system of nature preserves. Areas included within the system will be formally dedicated as nature preserves. The new law provides stringent protection for areas once they are dedicated. Portions of existing state and local parks and forest preserves may be included in the system. Also natural areas in other forms of public or private ownership may be dedicated as preserves.

The Illinois legislation is the newest and most advanced state program for protection of natural areas. In recent years, Wisconsin, Michigan, New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina have established natural area systems. Establishment of state nature preserves systems with strong legal safeguards is believed to provide the only possible way of assuring long-term preservation of natural areas outside the national parks and wilderness areas. Without the protection afforded by such a system, these areas are constantly subject to encroachments of all kinds.

Even natural areas in parks are in danger of being taken over for intensive recreational use, superhighways and the like. Dedication of areas under a state nature preserves system such as this will assure retention of their natural condition for the benefit of future generations.

IOWA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON OUTDOOR RESOURCES

Two Board members of the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy have been appointed to Governor Hughes' new committee. They are Arnold Haugen (Vice Chairman) and Galen Smith. The committee's Chairman is Des Moines wildlife artist Maynard Reese; its 24 members are drawn from many parts of Iowa and many occupations. Governor Hughes has asked the committee to submit a thorough plan for preservation of outdoor recreational areas in Iowa for the next 36 years. The Nature Conservancy has the unusual opportunity to work through this committee for conservation of natural areas at the planning stage. Prime natural areas which will undoubtedly be considered are those in the Missouri and Mississippi River flood plains, and the Upper Iowa River wildlands.

INDIANA DUNES HEARINGS ARE HELD

The Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, headed by Senator Alan Bible of Nevada, concluded hearings on March 7th on S. 2249, to establish the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in Indiana. Officials of the Department of the Interior, Senators Hartke (Ind.), Bayh (Ind.), and Douglas (Ill.); various conservation organizations, including The Nature Conservancy; and local groups supported the proposal. It appears to have a rocky road ahead, however, in view of expressed opposition led by Rep. Halleck of Indiana, some industries and labor groups. Opposition to the Lakeshore is centering upon industrial needs for the Lake Michigan Waterfront. Rep. J. Edward Roush (Ind.) has proposed a smaller Lakeshore which does not include a harbor site.

NATURALIST STAMP

A John Muir commemorative five cent postage stamp will go on sale April 29th at Martinez, California at first-day, issuing ceremonies. A muted green, orange and brown background of trees has superimposed on it the head of the great California naturalist.

THE WILDERNESS BILL AND THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND BILL

There are two major conservation Bills in the House of Representatives at the moment. One is the Wilderness Bill, which would establish a national wilderness preservation system to make sure that what is left of America's wilderness shall be kept intact for future generations. The other is the Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill, which provides the way to acquire the State and Federal lands and waters and accompanying facilities required to meet the needs of our growing urban population for outdoor recreation—close-at-hand natural areas for swimming, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, fishing, hunting, bird watching and photography.

The latter bill, H. R. 2036, is based on the recommendations of the bipartisan, widely representative Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission appointed by former President Eisenhower and chaired by Laurance Rockefeller. As a matter of fact, the bill was warmly endorsed by both President Kennedy and President Johnson, and is strongly supported by all the major national conservation organizations and by 49 State governors.

The bill has already been through the House Interior Committee, and amendments were made to meet all reasonable objections and it was approved by a vote of 20 to 6.

Conservationists in general recognize that the Government should not be expected, and cannot afford, to pay all the cost, and so the bill provides that the States, which get 60% of the revenues, shall contribute matching funds. They recognize that taxpayers should not pay all the bill, so user fees, in carefully and fairly selected cases, should be charged.

This bill, so responsibly worked out and so thoroughly considered, is now being considered by the House Rules Committee, and we all agree that it deserves prompt and favorable action.

BOOK REVIEWS:

GOD'S OWN JUNKYARD
By Peter Blake, published by Holt Rinehart and Winston, p. 142, price $2.95 (paperback).

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree
Perhaps, unless the billboard falls
I'll never see a tree at all.

GOD'S OWN JUNKYARD by Peter Blake deprives us of the illusions that THE PEREGRINE FALCON would have us envision. Mr. Blake has no mercy towards what he views as our degenerate landscape cluttered with evidence of man's habitation. This, too, is a conservation treatise.

Mr. Blake, managing editor of Architectural Forum, thinks national parks are nice but not close enough to cities to be of much benefit. Open space is what he seeks, in building and planning. He is an advocate of going underground with telephone poles, electric power lines and one suspects advertising billboards.

He says little, largely depending on pictures to create in the reader the same revulsion they created in him, a revulsion strong enough to make him write not in anger, but in fury. He decries our lack of aesthetic control, citing an opinion of Justice William O. Douglas, which he says authorizes legislation of beauty. But he avoids such strong statement, since opinions on beauty vary.

We hope that the laments of the master builders for open space go deeper than having nowhere to put the second United States they claim will be built in the next 40 years. More men writing to them like Mr. Blake might assure us of a firmer foundation for conservation.

THE LAST REDWOODS

Photographs and Story of a Vanishing Scenic Resource
By Philip Hyde and Francois Leydet

"Sequoia sempervirens is one of the glories of our continent, and the groves that still stand are one of the overpowering pageants of nature. But we have learned, in managing the isolated enclaves of Redwoods now under state or Federal protection, that no guardianship is sure unless a unit—a whole watershed—is placed under a single management plan that is ecologically sound."

The above is an excerpt from the foreword by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall to THE LAST REDWOODS published by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club's purpose in publishing this book is manifestly to produce a work of lasting beauty about this most spectacularly beautiful of trees and the unique kind of forest in which it grows. The Sequoias of the California coast, a scenic treasure belonging to all the world and which the public has thought were saved, are in their last years unless the public learns of the peril to them. In contrast to the Sierra Big Trees, many of which are preserved in Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks, few of the coast redwoods are adequately guarded. The book makes movingly clear what the resource is, what is happening to it—even in the state parks presumably saved—and what opportunity still exists to make sure that a great heritage will endure.

THE LAST REDWOODS tells of the forest itself through the ages and of the recent good work that has gone into saving some of these trees—from the time of Muir and Roosevelt through nearly half a century's struggle by the Save-the-Redwoods League and leaders of California's State Park System. It uncovers some unpleasant facts about what is happening and that must be faced if the great groves that have known the milleniums are not to be lost. It makes clear that such loss would be one that an increasingly urbanized and mechanized human community cannot afford.

"...The Sierra Club will be grateful if this book, because people help it be seen and heeded, in itself becomes a force to insure that the evergreen Sequoia sempervirens, the ever-living, SHALL INDEED LIVE ON."

THE PEREGRINE FALCON
By Robert Murphy
Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston: The Riverside Press, Cambridge. P. 157, price $4.00.

A plea for conservation subtly enfolded in the wings of Varda, the Falcon of THE PEREGRINE FALCON, swoops the reader into a southward migration facing all the perils and ecstasies that man supposes are those of the bird.

Man's imagination overcomes his physical limitations, that even planes cannot procure, and never has a reader felt so free despite the handicaps of jesses at one point when the falcon meets the falconer and eludes him.

The powers of Pavlovian conditioning shackling the bird causes man to ponder his real limits and reflect what might have been. Intimate knowledge of nature is revealed in these observations. Mr. Murphy enters the mind of the falcon to convey its impressionistic mental processes, neither sorting nor choosing but instinctively reacting to what has gone before.

It is a book borne on a south wind, written to the rhythm of a wingbeat, invigorating reading for the days to come with their spring lethargy.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This message is presented as a means of expressing appreciation for the numerous and important services of volunteer workers for The Nature Conservancy. Activities are of many kinds, but I refer specifically to expenditures of time and effort in supervising the lands held.

There are now 121 locations, totaling over 43,000 acres in 28 States, that have been preserved either wholly or in part by our organization. Seventy of these are still under the direct custodianship of Chapters or Project Committees. In many cases long hours of volunteer work in posting boundaries, marking trails, or interpreting what is preserved to visitors are required.

The Nature Conservancy must depend upon volunteer effort to carry on this kind of work. The cost of placing such service upon a paid basis is prohibitive. Even doubling the number of employees would not begin to match the volunteer achievements. It would be quite impossible to provide the incidental personal attention often required. The very fact that local persons are interested is a far greater force in preventing abuse of preserve lands than would be the case under an absentee landlord which the Conservancy would become without local activity.

It is regretted that most of the good work will always remain unknown. The worker has the personal satisfaction of a job well done and that is all. How this may be overcome is difficult to determine. Occasionally someone reports on the efforts of another. It is hoped that more of this may be done. Still the Washington Office will know little of these silent dedicated workers. Suggestions as to means of learning more about what is done and by whom will be welcomed.

Perhaps there should be some organized system for citation of service, though performed through love of nature, without thought of reward. Please offer whatever suggestions you may have in this matter.

Those near the preserves, who find themselves blessed with spare time, and an interest in nature, can find many opportunities to serve, ranging from making scientific studies to maintaining trails. There are never enough good photographs of plant and animal life. Anecdotes of things observed are also in demand.

Walter S. Boardman